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AO 91 (Rev. 11/11) Criminal Complaint

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## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of Michigan

13

United States of America

v.

BRETT JONATHAN SINTA

Case: 2:17-mj-30560

Assigned To : Unassigned

Assign. Date : 10/23/2017

Description: CMP USA v. SINTA (SO)

## CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of 2013 through on or about Oct. 23, 2017 in the county of Oakland and elsewhere in the  
Eastern District of Michigan, the defendant(s) violated:

*Code Section**Offense Description*

18 U.S.C. § 2251(a) and (e), 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)  
 (2)(A) and (b)(1) and 2252A(a)(5)(B) and (b)(2);  
 2422; and 2252A(g)(2)

Producing, attempting to produce and conspiracy to produce child  
 pornography; conspiracy to receive child pornography; conspiracy to access  
 with intent to view child pornography; participation in a child exploitation  
 enterprise, coercion and enticement of a minor

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See Attached Affidavit

☒ Continued on the attached sheet.


Complainant's signature

Special Agent Adam Christensen, FBI

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: OCT 23 2017


Judge's signature

City and state: Detroit, Michigan

Hon. Mona K. Majzoub, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR COMPLAINT AND**  
**ARREST WARRANT**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

I, Adam Christensen, having been first duly sworn, do hereby depose and state as follows:

1. I have been employed as a Special Agent of the FBI since 2010, and am currently assigned to the Detroit Division. While employed by the FBI, I have investigated federal criminal violations related to child exploitation, and child pornography. I have gained experience through training and everyday work relating to conducting these types of investigations. I have received training in the area of child pornography and child exploitation, and have had the opportunity to observe and review numerous examples of child pornography (as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256) in all forms of media including computer media. Moreover, I am a federal law enforcement officer who is engaged in enforcing the criminal laws, including 18 U.S.C. §§ 2251 and 2252A, and I am authorized by the Attorney General to request an arrest warrant.

2. This affidavit is made in support of an application for a criminal complaint and arrest warrant for **Brett Sinta** (XX/XX/1982) for violations of 18 U.S.C. § 2251(a) and (e) (producing, attempting to produce, and conspiracy to produce

child pornography); 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(2)(A) and (b)(1) (receipt and distribution of, conspiracy to receive and distribute, and attempt to receive and distribute child pornography); 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(5)(B) and (b)(2) (possession of, knowing access, conspiracy to access, or attempted access with intent to view child pornography); 18 U.S.C. § 2422 (coercion and enticement); and § 2252A(g)(2) (participating in a child pornography enterprise).

3. The statements contained in this affidavit are based in part on: information provided by FBI Special Agents; written reports about this and other investigations that I have received, directly or indirectly, from other law enforcement agents; information gathered from the service of administrative subpoenas; the results of physical and electronic surveillance conducted by law enforcement agents; independent investigation and analysis by FBI agents/analysts and computer forensic professionals; and my experience, training and background as a Special Agent (SA) with the FBI. Because this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of securing authorization for the requested arrest warrant, I have not included each and every fact known to me concerning this investigation. Instead, I have set forth only the facts that I believe are necessary to establish the necessary probable cause that **Sinta** has violated Title 18 U.S.C. §§ 2251(a) and (e), 2252A(a)(2)(A) and (b)(1), 2252A(a)(5)(B) and (b)(2), 2422 and 2252A(g)(2).

### **Background of Investigation**

4. This affidavit, complaint, and arrest warrant are part of an ongoing investigation related to the sexual exploitation of children (specifically preteen and teenage girls) on a chatroom-based website. To protect the integrity of the investigation, the website will be referred to throughout this affidavit as Website A.

5. Website A is a social media platform where people, using usernames of their choosing, enter chatrooms and communicate with other users in real time. The chatrooms have a list of users in the lower right corner of the screen, an active chat conversation on the lower left corner of the screen, and a large space above these for individuals to live stream their activities via web camera. In each chatroom, at any given time, up to two users can broadcast their activities via web camera.

6. The investigation reveals that Website A is primarily used by adult men seeking to sexually exploit teenage and preteen girls. These men pretend to be teenage boys, teenage girls, or others to entice the victims to engage in sexually explicit activity on camera. Throughout the course of this investigation, the FBI has identified more than 50 minor victims, with dozens more yet unidentified, who remove clothing, engage in sexual activity, and otherwise pose for other users on the various chatrooms on Website A. The investigation also reveals that in many instances groups of users on Website A work together to coordinate the recruitment, enticement, and coercion of the

victims into producing child pornography.

***Minor Victim-1's Victimization***

7. On June 29, 2017, MV-1 (DOB XX/XX/2000), a resident of the Eastern District of Michigan, was forensically interviewed by the FBI. During the interview, MV-1 stated that she had consistently been on Website A in a room with four to five individuals that she believed to be teenage males. This group of individuals enticed MV-1 to display her naked body and, among other things, to show her bottom and touch her vagina while on webcam on Website A. She stated that the group members also asked her to engage in sexual activity with her brother and to insert objects into her vagina, but that she never did those things.

8. The FBI reviewed logs from Website A to determine the identity of the offenders who enticed MV-1 to engage in sexual activity on webcam. These logs show, among other things, the IP addresses utilized to login to specific chatrooms, the date of the logins, and the names of those chatrooms. By reviewing the logs for MV-1's IP address, the FBI discovered that numerous individuals, including offender S2,<sup>1</sup> consistently visited a chatroom on Website A with MV-1 on at least a dozen different occasions.

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<sup>1</sup> The FBI knows the identities of S2, Website A, Website B, and the true usernames utilized by the defendants (including the username of **NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1** discussed below), but they are not revealed here to protect the integrity of an ongoing investigation.

***S2's Arrest and Cooperation Regarding the Group***

9. On July 27, 2017, after the FBI executed a federal search warrant at his residence, S2 agreed to speak to law enforcement. S2 identified MV-1 and stated that he had enticed her to visit Website A so that she could be targeted by a group he was working with. The objective of the group was to entice minor females to undress, masturbate, and engage in other types of sexual activity on webcam on Website A. S2 stated that he had been working with this particular group on Website A since 2012 or 2013 through the summer of 2017.<sup>2</sup>

10. S2 identified the target age of the victims of this group as 15-17 year old females. Members of the group usually recorded these sexual acts and sometimes shared the recordings with other group members. S2 stated that he and other group members were typically on the website targeting minors multiple times per week. He admitted that he had personally recorded dozens of minor females engaged in sexual activity on Website A. In addition to MV-1, S2 identified several other minors, to include MV-2 and MV-3, as victims of the group. These minors were all victimized on multiple occasions.

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<sup>2</sup> S2 acknowledged being a part of a second group as well. Six United States-based members of that group (including S2) were arrested, indicted for their participation in a child exploitation enterprise, and are currently detained in the Eastern District of Michigan. To date, over 1,000 child pornography videos have been recovered from S2's devices, numerous of which he recorded from Website A.

11. From S2's statements and a review of social media conversations between S2 and members of this second group, I know that this group used certain terminology. For example, they used the term "hunt" to refer to searching for minor female targets, the term "win" to refer to successfully getting a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct on webcam, the term "cap" or "capture" to refer to their recordings of minors, and the term "bate" as an abbreviation for masturbate. They used a minus symbol and a number to signify how much younger than 18 their victims were (e.g., -3 means 15 years old, -4 means 14 years old, etc.).

12. They also had their own roles or positions. For example, "talkers" in the group were in charge of talking to the girls to get them to engage in sexual activity. "Hunters" were in charge of getting the girls on to Website A and alerting other group members to the fact that they had brought the minors to Website A. The "loopers" would play a previously recorded video of a different minor chatting and/or performing sexual acts in a chatroom. The "looper" pretended to be the minor depicted in the video that is broadcast to the targeted minor victim as if it is occurring in real-time.

13. According to S2, from 2012 or 2013 through April of 2017, the group organized themselves on Website B. Website B contained a password-protected spreadsheet where the group maintained a list of minor females that they were targeting and what rooms on Website A were associated with them, along with a link

to the social media account that had been used to target the minor female. It also included a chat function so that the group members could coordinate their activities on Website A.

14. S2 told the FBI the names of several members of the group, identifying them only by their username or usernames used on Website A, Website B, and/or Discord. Group members typically used the same usernames across these platforms, although some had more than one username. Because several members of the group are not in custody and presumably still active on Website A, the specific usernames identified by S2 will not be identified here.

15. In April of 2017, the group started using a private server on Discord, another chat-based website, to organize their efforts to entice minor females to engage in sexual activity on camera. S2 provided consent to search his Discord account. Reviewing the group's chats on the Discord server supported S2's statements. Specifically, the Discord group chat had the same name as the group had used on Website B. Likewise, the group members involved in the Discord chat included numerous usernames that S2 had identified as group members. The chat conversations started on April 29, 2017, and went through October of 2017. The content of the group's discussions (i.e., about girls, rehashing activity on Website A, recalling conversations on Website B, etc.) corroborated statements made by S2.



16. In these conversations, group members posted sexually explicit images of girls,<sup>3</sup> links to Website A chatrooms, talked about “perving,” discussed “hunting” and “win,” referenced MV-2 (who the investigation has revealed has a DOB in 2001) and MV-3 (who the investigation has revealed has a DOB in 2002), discussed girls who were on camera in Website A rooms, and discussed sexual activity that girls had engaged in or were engaging in (e.g. “she was showing pussy”; “she used to dance in thong and bra on periscope, but never showed”; “1k show tits.”).

***Group Member NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1***

17. S2 identified **NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1** as being member of his group on Website A. S2 stated that **NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1** was a talker for the group and also hunted/linked. MV-1 also specifically recalled that username **NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1** was one of the group of individuals who enticed her to engage in sexual activity on Website A.

18. The FBI discovered social media conversations between **NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1** and MV-1 on MV-1’s devices. After obtaining a search warrant, they reviewed **NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1**’s account, in which he identifies his username, and observed that he attempted to entice numerous minor

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<sup>3</sup> The girls that they discussed and posted links to have not yet been identified. S2 said that both MV-2 and MV-3 were under the age of 18. Chat conversations involving both of these minors corroborated S2’s statements and also provided information about their age.

females to visit Website A chatrooms using the account. Moreover, he engaged in sexually explicit conversations with minor females, and he developed relationships with some of them that lasted for several months. For example, on September 6, 2016, he started talking to a minor female with a profile indicating she was 16 years old. In that initial conversation, she told him she was in high school. His conversations continued with her and became sexually explicit. The FBI observed a conversation between them on January 11, 2017, a portion of which is outlined below:

<b>NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1:</b>	Just make me cum haha it will make up for it
<b>Minor:</b>	lol ok
<b>NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1:</b>	Hehe
<b>Minor:</b>	naughty boy
<b>NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1:</b>	Now u got me excited for later
<b>Minor:</b>	but you gotta turn me on first ;)
<b>NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1:</b>	You know I will. U really should just let me call u on skype. You'd be wet quick haha:)
<b>Minor:</b>	no cause i cant see you
<b>NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1:</b>	But u could hear me
<b>Minor:</b>	idc
<b>Minor:</b>	would it make you cum hearing me cum?
<b>NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1:</b>	It would be sexy
<b>Minor:</b>	hehehe
<b>NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1:</b>	Mmhmm
<b>Minor:</b>	i need you
<b>NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1:</b>	Need me for what babe
<b>Minor:</b>	mmm you know
<b>NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1:</b>	Hehe nah you'll just be mean to me again
<b>Minor:</b>	Wtf?
<b>NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1:</b>	Haha I mean not letting me cum:)

<b>NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1:</b>	I was joking babe
<b>Minor:</b>	Haha but I need to make daddy cum
<b>NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1:</b>	Mmm u know that's not easy tho. U have to be a good sexy lil girl to do that
<b>NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1:</b>	Well. Actually a naughty girl for daddy
<b>Minor:</b>	Well that what I wanna be hehe
<b>NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1:</b>	Good daddy need a little slut. A sexy slut like u
<b>NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1:</b>	Fuck. I'll be right back my roommate needs a ride to work sorry babe

***NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1 is Brett Sinta***

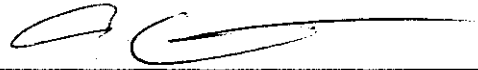
19. **NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1** was one of the individuals that frequently visited Website A, and more specifically frequently visited chatrooms with MV-1 with other known group members. One IP address used by the username **NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1** on Website A and two additional IP addresses that visited many of the same chatrooms as other group members, resolved to subscriber **Brett Sinta** at XXX N. Center Street, Hickory, North Carolina. These same IP addresses were used to log in to the social media account of **NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1** as well (the account that was used to communicate with the minor above).

20. On October 23, 2017, a federal search warrant authorized in the Northern District of North Carolina was executed at the residence of **Brett Sinta**, XXX N. Center Street, Hickory, North Carolina. **Sinta** and his fiancé were present at the

initiation of the execution of the warrant; however, the fiancé left the residence to go to work soon after. **Sinta** voluntarily spoke with the agents and stated that he had visited Website A and viewed females he knew to be minors engaged in sexual activity while on webcam on the website. **Sinta** admitted to working with a group on Website A and provided some, but not all, of the usernames of other group members. **Sinta** also admitted that the group organized their activity on a separate site, Website B. **Sinta** further stated that he used the username **NORTH CAROLINA TARGET #1**, the username that is discussed throughout this affidavit.

**CONCLUSION**

21. Based on the foregoing, there is probable cause to believe **Sinta** has produced, attempted to produce, and conspired to produce child pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2251(a) and (e). There is also probable cause to believe that **Sinta** also coerced and enticed, or attempted to coerce and entice, a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2422; and has participated in a child pornography enterprise in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(g)(2).



Special Agent Adam Christensen  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn to me this 23rd day of October, 2017



Mona K. Majzoub  
United States Magistrate Judge